

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented)

A substrate treatment method comprising:

the droplet generating step of generating droplets of a treatment liquid by mixing the treatment liquid with a gas, the treatment liquid droplets having a volume median diameter of $10\mu\text{m}$ to $16\mu\text{m}$; and

the step of causing the treatment liquid droplets generated in the droplet generating step to impinge on a surface of a substrate being treated.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Previously Presented)

A substrate treatment method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the gas is supplied at a flow rate of 58 liters/min to 78 liters/min for collision with the treatment liquid in the droplet generating step.

Claim 4 (Original)

A substrate treatment method as set forth in claim 3, wherein the treatment liquid is supplied at a flow rate of about 100 ml/min for collision with the gas in the droplet generating step.

Claims 5-17 (Canceled)

Claim 18 (Previously Presented)

A substrate treatment method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the droplet generating step includes the step of generating the droplets of the treatment liquid by using a bifluid nozzle having:

- a casing;
- a liquid outlet port for discharging a treatment liquid; and
- a gas outlet port for discharging a gas;

wherein the bifluid nozzle is adapted to introduce the treatment liquid and the gas into the casing, generate the droplets of the treatment liquid by spraying the gas discharged from the gas outlet port over the treatment liquid discharged from the liquid outlet port outside the casing, and spout the droplets on the surface of the substrate.

Claim 19 (Canceled)

Claim 20 (Previously Presented)

A substrate treatment method comprising:

the droplet generating step of generating droplets of a treatment liquid by mixing the treatment liquid with a gas, the treatment liquid droplets having a volume median diameter of $5\mu\text{m}$ to $40\mu\text{m}$; and

the step of causing the treatment liquid droplets generated in the droplet generating step to impinge a surface of a substrate being treated,

wherein the treatment liquid is deionized water, and the gas to be mixed with the treatment liquid is nitrogen gas.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented)

A substrate treatment method as set forth in claim 20, wherein the volume median diameter of the treatment liquid droplets is $10\mu\text{m}$ to $16\mu\text{m}$.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented)

A substrate treatment method as set forth in claim 21, wherein the gas is supplied at a flow rate of 58 liters/min to 78 liters/min for collision with the treatment liquid in the droplet generating step.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented)

A substrate treatment method as set forth in claim 22, wherein the treatment liquid is supplied at a flow rate of about 100 ml/min for collision with the gas in the droplet generating step.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented)

A substrate treatment method as set forth in claim 20, wherein the droplet generating step includes the step of generating the droplets of the treatment liquid by using a bifluid nozzle having:

- a casing;
- a liquid outlet port for discharging a treatment liquid; and
- a gas outlet port for discharging a gas;

wherein the bifluid nozzle is adapted to introduce the treatment liquid and the gas into the casing, generate the droplets of the treatment liquid by spraying the gas discharged from the gas outlet port over the treatment liquid discharged from the liquid outlet port outside the casing, and spout the droplets on the surface of the substrate.